(2) THE MADRAS CITY CIVIL COURT (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 1955.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, I beg to introduce the Madras City Civil Court (Second Amendment) Bill [a], 1955, and move—

"That the Bill be taken into consideration at once."

This is a small amendment of the City Civil Court Act 1892. We recently passed an amendment to this Act conferring jurisdiction upon the City Civil Court up to Rs. 50,000. We had made provision therein under section 15 (2) for appeals against decrees in suits involving Rs. 5,000 or less being heard by the Principal Judge. Under the amended Act we have made the presiding Judge the Principal Judge and others Assistant Judges. Prior to the amendment, there was no Assistant Judge at all. Those Judges were called Additional Judges. But in respect of decrees passed by the Additional Judges and where the pecuniary value does not exceed Rs. 5,000, it should be possible for the Principal Judge to deal with the matter in appeal. But when we amended it, we did not make provision for that because we did not take note of the fact that the Assistant Judges were being called Additional Judges prior to the amendment. That is why this amendment is being brought in. Also, prior to the amendment, all the decrees of the City Civil Court were appealable only to the High Court. Therefore, there are certain appeals pending in the High Court whose pecuniary value is less than Rs. 5,000 which could now be heard by the Principal Judge of the City Civil Court. Therefore, we are making provision for the transfer of all those appeals also to the City Civil Court for disposal by the Principal Judge. That is the effect of the Bill. I hope that the House will accept the motion.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved—

"That the Madras City Civil Court (Second Amendment) Bill, 1955, be taken into consideration at once."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Sir, while passing the previous Bill, there had been voices on the floor of the House to see that the original civil jurisdiction of the High Court was entirely removed. Yet, no such Bill has been brought in by the Government. With regard to this Bill, we have no objection to accept it. But we had been expecting that the Government would soon bring in a Bill to see that the original civil jurisdiction of the High Court was entirely removed and the jurisdiction vested in the City Civil Court. In the mufassal the Assistant Sessions Courts, the Sub-Courts as well as the District Courts have unlimited jurisdiction. The City Civil Court also should be brought on a par with the mufassal Courts. We entreat the Government to bring in such a Bill without much delay.

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, I do not think that I gave any assurance that I would be soon bringing in a Bill abolishing the original side of the High Court with reference to civil jurisdiction in the immediate future. Just now we have given enhanced jurisdiction to the City Civil Court up to Rs. 5,000. Let us see how that works. After that, a further decision can be taken whether all the civil suits may be tried by the City Civil Court. Before that, I cannot give any assurance that in the immediate future any Bill will be coming up before this House for the abolition of the entire original side of the High Court with reference to civil jurisdiction.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Is any such Bill under consideration now?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : It is not under consideration.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is—

" That the Madras City Civil Court (Second Amendment) Bill, 1955, be taken into consideration at once."

The motion was carried and the Bill was taken into consideration.

Clauses 2, 3 and 1 and the Preamble were put and carried.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, I move—

" That the Madras City Civil Court (Second Amendment) Bill, 1955, be passed."

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is—

" That the Madras City Civil Court (Second Amendment) Bill, 1955, be passed."

The motion was carried and the Bill was passed.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : We have got one small Bill and it is an important one. Tomorrow the election of the Speaker will take place. We cannot take up any other work tomorrow. The Hon. the Leader of the House may move the Bill now.

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Sir, that is an important Bill on which a number of Members want to speak. If I am right, it is with regard to the extension of the inams. Let us have it day after tomorrow.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now adjourn and meet again at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned.